Researching Digital families: Methodology Workshop

Welcome from
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Welcome

• Aim of the SUII 2015/6 series was to bring together academics, policy makers and practitioners to explore issues relating to the impact of digital technologies on families and relationships, across the lifecourse.

• One output from SUII series was the creation of the Digital Families Research Network with sub-teams focusing on Policy and Practice, Communications and Research.

• Research sub-group objectives to disseminate research in the field, raise issues and opportunities with policy groups, facilitate new research projects and create networking opportunities: www.crfr.ac.uk/digital-families-research-network/

• To assist these objectives, we will be holding 3 informal seminars/workshops a year focusing on digital and family: 2017/18 Methodologies, digital exclusion and digital play
Timely and important in a digital world:

• BBC (online) NEWS:
  ‘Facebook buys app for teens to be nice’
  ‘neo-natal babies filmed to help parents’
  ‘boy 11, racks up £6,000 iPad game bill’
  ‘media screens’ “detrimental effect” on children’s sleep’
  ‘father posts video of school bullying’
  ‘smartphone sales boom with over 55s’
‘Family’ across the social sciences...

Broadly the social sciences seem to have adopted an intergenerational, flexible view of family - beyond structure, households or dyads (Finch & Mason 1991):

• ‘extraordinarily flexible, negotiated and experiential’
  (Miller 2007, p.551) ‘being and doing’ Barnhart et al. (2014)

• Law (2004, p.2) notes that research methods need to adapt to such ‘messy and complex’ places to avoid missing voices and to see the full picture
Starting the series with a methodological focus

• As families are complex and private and technology is becoming more pervasive – how can we explore appropriate methodologies to better understand the evolving ‘Digital Families’ (beyond just using digital channels as methodological tools to research the family)

• What are the methodological issues that occur when working with digital families? How can we begin conversations to resolve such issues?

• What opportunities can we share and develop? How do we take those forward?

• Consolidate and share ideas and learning from today on our website: www.crfr.ac.uk/digital-families-research-network/
Housekeeping... and flow of the day

Speakers to update and inform us concerning:

• **Methodologies and adolescents** (Dr Heather Cleland Woods, University of Glasgow, Psychology)

• **Inter-generational families and technology** (Dr Caroline Marchant, Consumer Research)

• **Co-production approaches**, (Dr Trevor Lakey, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde)

• **Update from Australia on Digitising Early Childhood Conference** (Dr Kate Orton-Johnson, University of Edinburgh, Sociology)

aim to keep to time with plenty of opportunity and flexibility to identify and discuss key emerging topics, issues, themes